

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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O R 051601Z MAY 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0121
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 3478

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, NATO, SP
SUBJECT: US-SPANISH COUNCIL--FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON COORDINATION WITH NATO

SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUEST: DURING THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MAY 2, THE SPANISH SIDE (PRINCIPALLY DURAN
OF THE MFA) DISPLAYED) PARTICULAR INTEREST IN (A) OPENING
CHANNELS DIRECTLY TO CIVIL AND MILITARY ORGANS OF THE ALLIANCE
(RATHER THAN SIMPLY PURSUING CLOSER BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH
INDIVIDUAL ALLIES), AND (B) LAUNCHING A BILATERAL STUDY ON THE
EFFECTS WHICH CLOSER NATO TIES, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP, MIGHT HAVE
ON THE RELATIONSHIP UNDER THE 1976 TREATY (TO INCLUDE THE
POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUAL RENEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY).
FURTHER, DURAN ASKED FOR A BRIEFING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
BY ASST SECY HARTMAN OR OTHER US OFFICIAL ON THE LONDON NAC
MEETING, AND SUGGESTED THIS COULD TAKE PLACE DURING THE MAY
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11-12 VISIT IN CONNECTION WITH THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL MEETING
OR AT ANOTHER TIME NEAR TO THAT. WE UNDERSTAND ALAN HOLMES
OF RPM WILL COME TO MADRID FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WOULD APPRECIATE
KNOWING WHEN HE WILL BE AVAILABLE.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE HELD ITS LONG-AWAITED FIRST MEETING ON

MONDAY, MAY 2, ON THE BASIS OF AN AGENDA AND DRAFT REPORT TO THE COUNCIL (MADRID 3344, DTG 301349Z APR 77) SUGGESTED BY THE SPANISH SIDE. THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION CONSISTED OF TWO LISTS OF ILLUSTRATIVE AREAS FOR DISCUSSION WHICH FOCUSED ON BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH THE ALLIES (MADRID 2988, DTG 191817Z APR 77; AND 76 MADRID 5589, DTG 201930Z JUL 76). PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED DURAN, ELIAS AND CUERVO OF THE MFA, MARTINEZ-CANABATE OF THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF, DCM EATON AND CHIEF JUSMG/MAAG NASH. DURAN'S OPENING REMARKS HIGHLIGHTED SPANISH SATISFACTION AT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE, WHICH BRINGS INTO FORCE THE LAST OF THE ORGANS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TREATY. THE DCM'S REPLY UNDERLINED THE US POSITION IN FAVOR OF SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALLIANCE AND OUR DESIRE, WITHOUT WISHING TO PRESCRIBE ANY TIMETABLE TO THE SPANISH, TO BE OF ASSISTANCE WHERE WE CAN. DURAN INDICATED THAT THIS POSITION HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ TO WASHINGTON. HE NOTED THAT NO CONCRETE STEPS COULD BE TAKEN BEFORE A DECISION WAS MADE BY A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN MADRID BUT THERE WAS MUCH THAT THE COMMITTEE COULD ACCOMPLISH IN THE INTERIM.

2. THE FIRST AGENDA ITEM WAS A REVIEW OF THE TWO U.S. LISTS. THE SPANISH SIDE PASSED OVER THE FIRST LIST (THAT OF LAST SUMMER), HAVING MADE CLEAR PRIOR TO THE MEETING THAT IT CONSIDERED THIS LIST LARGELY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. THE ITEMS ON THE SECOND LIST (PRESENTED RECENTLY AT SPANISH REQUEST) ALSO EVOKED COMMENT FROM THE SPANISH SIDE THAT IT DID NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. THE ITEMS DEALING WITH VISTS AMONG PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER ELECTION OF THE NEW CORTES. DURAN THOUGHT THESE ITEMS MIGHT BE OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMITTEE. ITEMS CONCERNING NATO INTEROPERABILITY LINKAGE OF AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS AND NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY WERE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH. WHEN SPANISH MILITARY INTRODUCED QUESTION OF LIMITED SERVICABILITY OF SPANISH MILITARY EQUIPMENT, DURAN CURTAILED DISCUSSION AND SUGGESTED FURTHER EXPLANATION AND DISCUSSION AT LATER DATE.

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O R 051601Z MAY 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 3478

FOR THE SECRETARY

3. SECOND AGENDA ITEM TREATED WAS HOW US-SPANISH BILATERAL RELATIONS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY CLOSER SPANISH LINKS TO NATO, INCLUDING POSSIBLE SPANISH MEMBERSHIP. DURAN SUGGESTED A STUDY OF HYPOTHETICAL CASES WHICH MIGHT SUGGEST HOW VARIOUS SPANISH INITIATIVES TOWARD THE ALLIANCE MIGHT AFFECT BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY THAT RENEGOTIATION OF THE TREATY MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE INVOLVED. IT WAS AGREED AD REF, PARTICULARLY AS TO TIMING, THAT THIS TASK MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN BY A SUBCOMMITTEE.

4. THE THIRD AGENDA ITEM WAS A SPANISH REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE ALLIANCE, DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY THOSE ORGANS, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, WITH WHICH CLOSER SPANISH CONTACTS MIGHT BE FEASIBLE IN THE REASONABLY NEAR TERM AFTER THE SPANISH ELECTIONS. THE U.S. SIDE UNDERTOOK TO PREPARE A PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT FOR LATER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE.

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5. THE FOURTH AGENDA ITEM DEALT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF U.S. EXPERTS ON NATO IN FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ITSELF. AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS REACHED THAT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL. DURAN THEN MENTIONED HAVING DISCUSSED WITH ASST SECY HARTMAN THE POSSIBILITY OF A BRIEFING HERE IN MADRID ON THE SPRING NAC, ADDITIONAL TO WHATEVER THE SECRETARY MIGHT SAY AT THE COUNCIL MEETING ITSELF. DURAN SUGGESTED THIS COULD TAKE PLACE EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE COUNCIL MEETING AND THAT IT SHOULD EMPLOY THE FORUM PROVIDED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

6. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD MEET FREQUENTLY.

7. FINALLY, IT WAS AGREED THAT THIS SESSION WOULD BE REFERRED TO IN ANY PUBLIC COMMENT AS THE FIRST MEETING, VICE INAUGURAL MEETING, OF THE COMMITTEE BUT THAT NO ACCOUNCEMENT WOULD BE MADE EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF REPORTING ON THE COUNCIL MEETING ITSELF, IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE SPECULATION.

8. SEPTTEL WILL CONTAIN THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO THE COUNCIL, ON WHICH DRAFTING WAS NOT COMPLETED AT THIS MEETING.

9. OTHER ACTION REQUESTED: IN ADDITION TO A RESPONSE REGARDING THE NACE BRIEFING, WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE FROM BOTH THE DEPT AND USNATO IN PROVIDING FURTHER WRITTEN MATERIAL THAT COULD BE PASSED TO THE SPANISH ON THE ISSUES OF INTEROPERABILITY AND STANDARDIZATION. WE HAVE A SINGLE COPY OF THE DOD REPORT ON "RATIONALIZATION/STANDARDIZATION WITHIN NATO," AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING TWO MORE COPIES OF THAT DOCUMENT. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE PAPER DESCRIBED IN PARA 4 ABOVE.

10. FOR USNATO: WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING AN INVITATION TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL, LUIS CUERVO Y FABREGA, TO VISIT NATO HEADQUARTERS AT SPANISH GOVT EXPENSE IN ORDER TO MEET OFFICIALS
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OF THE MISSION, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF, AND APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER MISSIONS. FURTHER, CUERVO HAS THE IMPRESSION FROM A RECENT CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH A SENIOR OFFICIAL AT THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE IN ROME THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO INVITE A SPANISH GOVT SPEAKER TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME ASPECT OF THE COLLEGE'S PROGRAM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE TAKING OF SOME FURTHER SOUNDINGS. STABLER

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